ECHOES OF CONSPIRACY
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Paul L. Hoch

HSC files:

The lobbying efforts of ACCESS seem to be having some effect. Several former HSC members are sympathetic, and a resolution will probably be offered in the foreseeable future. The resolution would subject the HSC files to the guidelines for Warren Commission records, which were amended in 1974 to take the FOIA into account.

ACCESS suggests that letters will help - write both to your Representative and to former HSC members who need to be persuaded: Stokes, Ford, Fithian, and Dodd. (See 4 EOC 5 for addresses. Support from HSC members who will not be in the next House will probably still be useful.)

One EOC reader who is not enthusiastic about the ACCESS plan has sent me an article (#171, below) about the sad financial state of the Archives - the staff is so overworked that getting our hands on any documents sent there might be a slow process.

This reader also pointed out that we can ask HSC witnesses for copies of their own testimony. If we can find out who testified and where they are, that is - hardly an adequate alternative to a formal disclosure policy. But if any of you would like to try this with a few favorite witnesses, let me know what turns up. Also, would anyone like to piece together a partial witness list from the footnotes in one or more of the HSC volumes? (Let me know before you start, so that - in the unlikely event that there are two of you - we can avoid duplication of effort.) This would be a worthwhile project.

Gary Mack's newsletter:

Issues #2 and #3 of "Coverups!" are out. (Each is 8 pages.) If you haven't already subscribed, I recommend that you do so. The price is $1 per issue, and it has gone monthly. (Write to 4620 Brandingshire Place, Fort Worth, TX 76133.)

Issue #2 includes more about automatic gain control, and Gary's conversations with two members of the acoustics panel. There is an impressive analysis of the Couch and Weigman films, arguing that they do not prove the McLain was not where the HSC experts placed him.

Issue #3 features an enhanced image of the man behind the wall in the Moorman photo. (He is where the HSC experts saw a man in Willis 5, not where the rifleman was in the acoustics reenactment.) [6 HSC 122-5] There have been many disputed photographic images of people over the years; this is (as I recall) the first one I can really see. Gary and Jack White claim that two apparent features of the man's clothing are consistent with the badge and shoulder patch of a Dallas police uniform - which of course does not mean that he is a DPD officer. The arm position and possible puff of smoke are hard to interpret, and obviously don't prove that the man was a gunman. Nonetheless, a professional enhancement of all available early negatives made from the Moorman photo seems called for.

These two issues also include reproductions of clippings on Howard Hunt's dropped suit against Weberman et al., the firing of Earl Golz, the death of Kevin Mulcahy, the CIA's book publishing efforts, Rev. Jerry Owen (a figure in the RFK case), and more. As always, Gary's "Briefs" column is informative and amusing.

In this issue: I'm starting to catch up on a large accumulation of clippings and other documents. As always, requests for single copies of individual items (for your own research, at 7¢/page plus postage) will be filled as my time permits. I give priority to people who send me material on the JFK case.

* Clippings: On the JFK case, and on individuals of possible relevance:
All dates are 1982, unless otherwise specified.

100. January (Atlantic Monthly) "The prisoner of charisma" [14 pp.]
Excerpted from Gary Wills' book, "The Kennedy Imprisonment." (See #130.)
A fascinating and fundamentally persuasive book, even though sometimes the facts seem to fit the thesis too well.

101. 1 Jan (UPI) "Marcello asks court review of deportation"

102. 10 Jan "Bishop is the key," by Dick Vittorioso [2 pp.] Comments on the Maurice Bishop affair, by a buff who says he intends to publish a newsletter on this topic. A free copy to the first 25 people to request it, courtesy of the author. (You pay the postage.)

103. 11-14 Jan (SFC) "Rev. Ray Broshears, gay activist, dies" at age 46, of a stroke. He claimed to have been a roommate and confidant of David Ferrie. (See "Coincidence or Conspiracy?")

* 104. 12 Jan [7 pp.] Excerpts from an affidavit by SA John Phillips, in Mark Allen's suit against the FBI for HSC-related records. The affidavit gives the number of cases and pages in each of eight categories of relevant records (organized crime, internal security, etc.) It includes the preposterous claim that the HSC included, in its published volumes, "everything which could be deemed as relating to the assassination of President Kennedy." Allen's attorney, Jim Lesar, has asked Blakey for an affidavit refuting this claim.

105. 13 Jan (UPI) "Mob kingpin [Marcello] gets 7 years in Brilab case"

106. 20 Jan (SFC) The Question Man asks, on Martin Luther King Day, "Whom have you respected a lot?" Two people said JFK; one called him "a good President, a good politician and a good family man." I guess two out of three would be close enough.

107. 28 Jan (AP & UP in SFC) "Reagan says Haig met with Cuban leader" [Vice-president C. R. Rodriguez, in Mexico] Haig did not offer the Cuban a pen, a cigar, or a diving suit. [Okay, this might not be relevant.]

108. 28-29 Jan (SFC) Obituaries for Joan Hitchcock, S.F. social figure and intimate friend of JFK when he was a Senator.

109. 31 Jan (SFC) "Violence of the 1960's with Tesich's [film] 'Four Friends'" [2 pp.] A "melodramatic" shooting scene, the writer explains, was intended "as a metaphor for the Kennedy assassination."

110. 3 Feb (LAT in SFC) "Something hits Bush's limousine" Probably a brick, advises the FBI lab. The brick is believed to have acted alone.

111. 4 Feb (WP in SFC) "Oval Office bugged: JFK secret tapes - long list revealed" [3 pp.] The Kennedy library has released a 29-page log of about 600 recorded phone calls and meetings; some information is deleted. Evelyn Lincoln explained how she operated the system for JFK. Kennedy loyalists do know how to keep secrets, don't they?

* 112. 4 Feb (WP in SFC) "Who's on JFK tapes, what the topics are" [2 pp.] On March 4, 1963, JFK and RFK discussed "press reports and press gossip," and McCone's "testimony on the missile crisis." Can anyone suggest what, specifically, this might have been about?

I saw, but did not get, a tabloid article suggesting that one conversation related to the time Jackie Kennedy spent with Aristotle Onassis.

Does anyone have the 29-page log, or a detailed analysis?

113. 4 Feb (NYT in ??; short) "JFK taped White House talks, phone calls" One conversation, with RFK, was about a "Cuban exile raid."

114. 4 Feb (AP) "Librarian claims JFK secretly taped calls, conversation" Dan Fenn of the JFK Library hopes to open some of the tapes "this summer."

115. 4 Feb (ABC Nightline) "The JFK tapes" [4 pp.] Guests: Lincoln, Safire, Fenn, Burke Marshall, and Salinger. Safire, mildly outraged, wonders if the Church Committee managed to hear relevant tapes.

116. 5 Feb (WP in SFC) "Missile crisis book: RFK probably used JFK's secret tapes"

117. 5 Feb (AP) "Did Bay of Pigs trigger Kennedy tapes?" Salinger (in #115) suggests JFK was angry about people disassociating themselves from administration policy.

118. 5 Feb (AP) "Presidential bugging list grows longer"

119. 7 Feb (McGrory) "Tapes have Kennedy fans reeling"

120. 7 Feb (AP in LAT) "Kennedy death site sign gathering dust" The Hertz billboard was removed in 1979 - its weight was causing structural damage to the TSBD. It is now in the basement.

121. 8 Feb (SFC) Relatively pro-JFK editorial on "Presidential tapes"

122. 14 Feb (Boston Globe in SFX) "Sad chapter in stellar career"

123. 23 Feb (AP in SFC) "Big birthday for [Edward] Kennedy," the first of the Kennedy brothers to reach age fifty.

124. 28 Feb (Inquiry) "The G-man's vendetta" [3 pp.] Review, by Johnny Greene, of David Garrow's book on the FBI and MLK. Greene alleges that, according to "reliable sources," Hoover "listened without emotion" to a tape recording of the shooting of King.

125. March (Penthouse) A letter from reporter William Stuckey, in response to a reference to him in an excerpt from the Hinckle-Turner book. H&T said that Manuel Gil set up the Oswald debate on WDSU in New Orleans, but Stuckey says that "Oswald was my media discovery." Stuckey takes no position on who killed JFK, and says he "hesitate[s] to drag out the whole barrel of details leading up to my Oswald contacts," but he clearly wants the historical footnote he is entitled to. That's fine with me, since the facts do raise some interesting unresolved questions about how the FBI dealt with Oswald and with the press, and about internal FBI record-keeping. To wit:

* 126. 16 Nov 77 (PLH memo) "Evidence relating to Stuckey's contact with the FBI, August 21, 1963" This memo was prompted by the following recently released item, combined with Stuckey's Warren Commission testimony and his comments to Priscilla McMillan. Stuckey talked with SAC Maynor on the morning of the 21st; Stuckey's account (which I am inclined to believe) suggests that the FBI filled him in on Oswald's background and showed him the file, and may even have initiated the contact.

127. 21 Aug 63 (FBI NO 100-16601-14a) According to SAC Maynor's account for the files, Stuckey called to ask if the FPCC had been cited as a subversive organization (sure!), and volunteered that Oswald would be on his program that evening; there is no indication that Maynor told Stuckey anything. Something strange was definitely going on. (What did Maynor tell the HSC when interviewed?)

128. March 1982 (Playboy) An excerpt from an interview with Patricia Hearst, with her comments on the speculation that the CIA set up the SLA. Asked about the JFK assassination, she replied: "You should talk to my father. [Publisher Randolph Hearst] He thinks the Mafia did it."

129. March (Washington Monthly) Brief, balanced review of the Hinckle-Turner book, by Taylor Branch. Branch notes the "enormous amount of revealing information on the scope of the campaign against Cuba in the book." For example, "in 1963 [JFK] ordered the CIA to outfit a new Cuban brigade and to escalate the commando raids already being carried out inside Cuba in preparation, presumably, for a full-scale assault." A source who has studied such matters asserts that this sentence is untrue. All I can say is that the questions surrounding administration
* support of anti-Castro activities in 1963 are important (and that a study of the records in the JFK library would be worthwhile). Peter Scott and Russ Stetler have looked into some of these questions, noting in particular the fact (buried in a HSC report on JURE, 10 HSC 77) that a "track two" approach to Cuban operations was approved in June 1963. This approach involved deniable support to groups like JURE, outside normal CIA channels.

* 130. 8 Mar (Newsweek) Good summary and favorable review of Wills' book on the Kennedys. "[O]n the central themes of sex and power, Wills delivers with fine, sharp intelligence.... Wills takes a tough line on the political implications of JFK's 'large-scale satyriasis' and machismo.... JFK's compromising liaison[s] ... gave people who knew about them [e.g., Hoover] inordinate power over the President.... Wills does not ask about the psychology behind all that compulsive proving of masculinity, but he does discuss its effects on foreign policy (Vietnam as well as Cuba) and on the Presidency itself: the famous Kennedy charisma, emphasizing personal authority, virility, and style, 'delegitimate[d] the traditional and legal authorities' of the office."

My impression is that the facts on issues such as JFK's Cuban policies are really not yet clear enough to justify as coherent a thesis as Wills presents, but I think he is basically right most of the time. There is little on the JFK

assassination controversy, which is certainly a factor in public perception of EMK and his historical role. Wills' comments on the dispute over removing JFK's body from Dallas make sense, but they are quirky (he sees it as an expression of Kennedy authority over legal authority) and, if Lifton's evidence points to the heart of the controversy, Wills has certainly missed the point.

131. 22 Mar (Time) A generally negative review of the Wills book.

132. April (Reader's Digest) "Shield against assassins: the Secret Service," by Carl Rowan and D. Mazie [3 pp.] Rather routine.

133. 3 Apr (Montreal Gazette) Good summary/review of the Wills book.

134. 9 Apr (SDR) An Oliphant cartoon, directed against the legalisms of the Hinckley defense, with a passing reference to the JFK case: "If Oswald had lived, the trial could still be pending."

135. 15 Apr (Candor) "The fourth bullet: amazing breakthrough in the JFK assassination or hoax?" [4 pp.] Probably the latter. A talk-show caller in S.F. told Bob Cutler that his uncle, a SS agent, had been wounded in the motorcade. The phone number he left did not check out. This article includes a summary of the references to an injured Secret Service agent. ("Candor" is published "irregularly," with a wide range of subjects, such as the Trilateral Commission. Two dollars per issue from P.O. Box 1107, Aptos, CA 95003 - also an excellent source for books on the JFK case and related topics. Send $1 for a catalog.)

* 136. 16 Apr (LA Daily News) "Reputed Mafia chief [Marcello] sentenced to prison" for 10 years, for trying to bribe a L.A. federal judge. "By any evaluation, I think it's fair to say you're a very bad man," said the sentencing judge.

137. 28 Apr (Bill Wallace, SFC) "Fresno theft case testimony: story of spies, stolen arms and drugs" About a "shadowy group known to its own members as 'the company.'" (Not the CIA, of course.) Alleged tramp lookalike and killer Charles Harrelson is supposedly a member. (Reprinted in Coverups, #2, p. 7.)

138. 29 Apr (UPI) "To kill a President" Routine summary of past attempts.

139. 30 Apr (?) (AP in NYT) "Kennedy library head belittles [LAT] article on [JFK] tapes" which says that seven are missing. A "premature" conclusion, says Fenn. (Can someone send me the L.A. Times article, please?)

140. May 1982 (Gung Ho, "The magazine for the international military man") "The CIA's man for all nations," by William Seymour (presumably not the man known to us from the Odio story) [5 pp.] About Helmut Streicher, a.k.a. William Rhine, who worked for U.S. intelligence from 1945 to 1980. The author knew him before and at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion, when both were in Army Intelligence, operating in Cuba. Later, the CIA sent Streicher to Africa to investigate the death of Lumumba; unofficially, he thinks the CIA had him killed. Asked if Castro killed JFK, Streicher said it was ex-CIA contract agents plus some anti-Castro Cuban exiles, "set up and financed by Mob money and some very big money interests. You'd have to go back to his father's background, old Joe Kennedy, to get into all that." I have no reason to assume he has sources other than the Blakey and Summers books, but I do wonder if any of the recent official investigations have talked to this man, at least about Cuban operations.

141. May (Gung Ho) Table of contents and masthead accompanying #140 [2 pp.]

142. 3 May (Newsweek) "A millionaire [Bob Sutton] and an oil scam" Sutton asked Marcello to arrange a couple of false arrests; Marcello allegedly agreed at first, then (on the FBI's tape) backed out.

143. 11 May (UPI) Obituary for Dr. James Weston, a member of the HSC's forensic pathology panel and formerly a consultant to CBS on the autopsy evidence. (See also Coverups, #1, p. 3.)

144. 17 May (WP in Inquiry) "Ronald Reaganworld" A short item on the White House facade being built as part of a new Secret Service training facility.

145. 29 May (?) "Remembering JFK on his 65th" birthday - a Boston party

146. June 1982 (Soldier of Fortune, reprinted in TCI, 6/22, p. 4) A routine little article, including the current business address of John T. Masen. The article is about the firearms accessories he now sells, and does not mention the allegation that he was an Oswald lookalike with connections to the Minutemen and anti-Castro Cubans in Dallas. (See Dick Russell, Village Voice, 23 August 1976.)

147. June 1982 (Harper's) "The legend of Hank Greenspun" [9 pp.] Lots on his background and associates, and the Watergate/Hughes stories, but nothing about his role in reports of the "backfiring" CIA plots against Castro. In March 1976, his Las Vegas Sun article suggesting that Castro killed JFK - apparently based on a very sensitive memo Greenspun had - spurred the Church Committee to investigate further. (Does anyone know what the Committee learned from Greenspun? And can someone send me the 3/1/76 Sun article?) In 1977, Jim Kostman studied the Johnny Rosselli story at length; he found some indication that Greenspun knew about the CIA's use of Rosselli as early as 1966. There is essentially nothing new about Hughes or Greenspun in the published HSC material, despite (or because of?) the importance of the CIA-Mafia plots. (See "Crime and Cover-up," by Peter Dale Scott, for more on Greenspun.)

148. June (Berkeley Monthly) "The way they weren't" [2 pp.] An emphatically negative review of Wills' book by Peter Collier, whose own book on the Kennedys will be published in 1984. "'The Kennedy Imprisonment' is an act of war, and in war, we are all aware, truth is the first casualty."

149. 1 Jun (Register [L.A.]) "UCI [U.C. Irvine] 'bullet man' wields tool of the atomic age" Vincent Guinn on his NAA work for the HSC: it doesn't prove no conspiracy; "there could have been 50 people firing guns that day, but the only one who did any damage was Oswald. We are certain of that."

150. 5 Jun (DTH, in TCI 6/22) "Those were the days" [3 pp.] Profile of Abe Weinstein, manager of the Colony Club and acquaintance of Jack Ruby.

151. 8 Jun (?) (NYT in ?) "Ex-CIA's would-be novelist [Frank Snepp]: 'I'm trapped'" The CIA publication board has approved his novel on the JFK assassination, with just one hitch: "They wanted to cut out something they contended was sensitive but which I argued had already been in print elsewhere. They asked me to delete it voluntarily and not give it any more publicity," and he did so.

152. 11 Jun (Fort Worth News-Tribune) "Is Kennedy's assassin sitting in Texas jail?" [2 pp.] Jim Marrs on Harrelson. (Reprinted in Coverups, #1.)

153. 22 Jun (National Enquirer) and 4 Jul (UPI) "Nightmare life of terror stalks Lee Harvey Oswald's daughters" and "Oswald girls sue National Enquirer" Says the Enquirer: "June, a slim journalism student at the University of Texas in Austin, has her heart set on clearing her father."

154. 23 Jun (New Republic) "Ten years later, the buffs are still on the case: Ah, Watergate" [9 pp.] A pretty good wrapup of Watergate theories, including his own, by Ron Rosenbaum. There are some digs at buffs in general (who, "unlike mere reporters, do not make phone calls, except to other buffs") and at JFK buffs in particular. (Rosenbaum notes "the aura of bad taste and futility that is associated with their efforts," and the "ghoulishness" of grassy knoll theories, especially Lifton's.)

155. July (Grassy Knoll Gazette) Review (by Cutler?) of the Kurtz book. [4 pp.] "Kurtz' concentration on an 8-second microcosm of Century XX removes all sense of history from the 'historian's perspective.'" Well put.

156. 9 Jul (LAT) "'JFK Lives' - an actor obsessed" Review of Mark McIntyre's one-man show on JFK, "more idolatrous than biographical."

* 157. 7 Jul "A possible French connection" [48 pp.] Memorandum by Bud Fensterwald, filed on behalf of Gary Shaw in an FOIA suit relating to Jean Souetre, a French OAS activist who was allegedly in Dallas on November 22 and expelled from the U.S. within two days. There is lots of background on Souetre/Mertz/Roux, with bits on Clay Shaw, Permindex, the Hungarians (!), and Thomas Eli Davis.

* 158. 6 Jul "Memorandum opinion and order" by the judge in David Phillips' libel suit against the Washingtonian and Gaeton Fonzi [2 pp.] The order sustains the defendants' demurrer to the plaintiff's amended declaration, which I guess means that the case has been thrown out (at least in this Maryland court, and at least for now). The judge ruled that the plaintiff failed "to plead adequately actual malice" by Fonzi and the magazine.

159. Plaintiff's declaration in this matter [7 pp.] Libel and invasion of privacy are claimed. (Nothing new of substance in this item, I think.)

160. 17 Jul 82 (Montreal Gazette) Review of the novel "Celebrity," by Thomas Thompson. One character is a journalist who gets an exclusive interview with Oswald's wife and mother just after the assassination.

161. 23 Jul (Publishers Weekly) A brief review of "American Assassins," a "scholarly" study by James Clarke. (See also #165, 169, and 170 below, and remarks in the December issue of Cutler's GKG.)

162. 28 Jul (UPI) "Umbrella stabs man on beach" Neither Louie Witt nor the Bulgarians this time; the suspect umbrella was set in motion by high winds.

163. 31 Jul (Economist [England]) A routine, somewhat picky, but ultimately too generous review of the Kurtz book.

164. 19 Aug (?) (Family Weekly) Ad for "Conspiracy in Dallas," a 312-page paperback available for $4 (postpaid) from Box 663, Waskom, TX 75692. Oswald wasn't the assassin, but "part of a conspiracy ... in the role of informant to the FBI, CIA, and State Department." I have the book, which I can recommend to collectors. In its favor: it is a lot cheaper than the Kurtz book, and it doesn't seem to endorse any new crazy theories. It's a curious potpourri of mostly familiar theories, with lots of Garrisonisms. I read it carefully only as far as the claim on page 2 that Blakey refused to call Helms as a witness. The actual publisher seems to be Wayne Fairchild of Shreveport, who also produces "Suppressed Facts Quarterly."

165. 29 Aug (NYT Book Review) A favorable review of the Clarke book. [2 pp.] To his credit, Clarke insists that some assassins - Booth and Sirhan, for example, must be understood in light of political and more or less rational motives. He recognizes "an unmistakable political bias [in past studies] toward a highly individualistic psychopathological explanation of the motives of assassins.... To do otherwise [at the official level] would be to risk acknowledging the rationality of some political grievances."

166. 31 Aug (WP) "The day they paroled Lee Oswald" A truly stupid and nasty little fantasy by Carl Bode, a professor of English at Maryland. Presumably an emotional response to recent developments in the Hinckley and Sirhan cases, this essay includes digs at the ACLU and the Supreme Court.

167. 3 Oct (S.F. Chronicle) A caricature of the released Oswald, holding a smoking pistol and saying "If you understood me you'd love me," which accompanied a reprint of the previous item. This nonsense must have struck a chord - it was also reprinted in the Boston Globe, under the headline "Lee Oswald goes free." The SFC headline was "Suppose that Oswald got his freedom." Why not an article headed "Suppose Oswald got his trial"?

168. 5 Sep (Detroit Free Press) A positive review of the Clarke book. Oswald falls into the category of "rejected neurotics seeking to compensate for personal failures by drastic, attention-getting deeds." (This appears to be the reviewer's language, not Clarke's.)

169. 10 Sep (PW) Brief review of "Scandals, Scamps, and Scoundrels," by investigative reporter James Phelan. The book includes a section on Garrison.

170. 19 Sep (LAT) Another review of the Clarke book.

171. 20 & 27 Sep (New Republic) "Why the Archives are in tatters: Broken records" [2 pp.] The basic problem is budget pressure, intensified by the fact that NARS is part of GSA (primarily a facilities and service agency), unlike the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian. Judging from this article, things are tight throughout NARS. Aside from the escalating cost of copies (25¢ per page as of last February), have any researchers had any problems in dealing with the Archives or the Presidential libraries?

172. 8 Oct (Times [London] Literary Supplement) Yet another mostly favorable and basically uninformed review of the Kurtz book, by John Sparrow, allegedly a distinguished Oxford scholar. At least Sparrow is consistently undiscriminating, Gary Owens notes - in his 1967 mini-book he defended the Warren Commission, and now he thinks Kurtz presents his case "very fairly."

* 173. November (Joe Kahn, Boston Magazine) "Still conspiratorial after all these years" [2 pp.] Kahn is not very enthusiastic about buffery in general: "Are we doomed forever to wallow in Zapruder frames...? Has the 'conspiracy' to

kill [JFK] become the psycho-political equivalent of Loch Ness-monster sightings?" But the article includes sympathetic accounts of the work of Dave Williams (a co-founder of the AIB) and Phil Melanson (a political-science professor working on a book about Oswald and the intelligence community). Also, there are comments from a staff researcher at the JFK library about the "scholars and space cadets" he deals with.

Please send me other anniversary pieces, especially those with a local focus. Apparently there was very little 11/22 coverage this year.

* 174. November (Gallery) "The FBI's file on [the] JFK [case]," by Earl Golz [7 pp.]

* 175. December (Gallery) Part 2 of this report [8 pp.]

176. Oct-Nov-Dec (Gallery) Accompanying material - graphics, publisher's remarks, table of contents, cover, etc. Rated PG. [6 pp.]

The first installment (#174) deals with Fedora-Nosenko-Solo-Kostikov, the FBI investigation (especially Hosty's account), Oswald's Minox photos, Delphine Roberts, and Oswald in New Orleans, with sidebars on the Tague shot and on Hoover's "vendetta" against the DPD. The second part includes Odio, Veciana, and Army Intelligence (all briefly), the alleged connection between Oswald and Pedro Gonzalez in Abilene, Jack Ruby (his FBI connection, his finances, and gunrunning), Gordon Arnold's story of a man with Secret Service credentials on the knoll before the shooting, and quite a bit on Tippit's background and murder.

Much of this material is not generally known. Some may have appeared before only in Golz' DMN articles; some may be completely new. These Gallery articles are certainly valuable compilations. Although Golz does not try to pull it all together into a conclusion about who killed JFK, it is useful to see which of the many angles he has pursued over the years are, in his opinion, most important.

Earl's discussion (in part 1) of the evidence relating to Oswald's visit to Mexico is a reminder of the complexity of this area. As I've said before, I don't find Hosty's version persuasive, especially in its implication that higherups in the FBI were covering up Oswald's Russian and Cuban contacts, and that those contacts were particularly sinister.

177. 1 Nov (WP) According to a short item in a column about lawyers, Blakey has been turned down in his request for a free copy of about 50,000 pages of FBI documents on Oswald and Ruby. Blakey said that he expected to make recommendations to the FBI and JD about further investigation of the assassination, to teach a law school course on the subject, and write about it.

178. Fall 1982 (Harvard Lampoon parody of Newsweek) "Box office killer" A review of "Zapruder: The Special Edition." I suppose this is about as funny as possible, on this topic. Watching the film is painful - "emotionally for those who, like so many of us, watched the events on television and physically for those who, like former Texas Governor John Connally, were sitting in the front seat of the car and got hit by stray bullets." Former President Ford, on the new photographic evidence, showing a gunman on the hood of the limousine: "I see no reason to change my mind. Except for all the evidence to the contrary, that is."

<u>Clippings:</u> About or by buffs and other investigators:

179. 15 Jan 77 (Rolling Stone) Photo of the late John Belushi, pretending to pass money to Jim Garrison. I don't have most of the article, which includes an interview of Garrison by Belushi.

180. 1979? "Reality must be faced" A commentary on Dick Gregory, by Ivan Goldman, apparently in some L.A. paper. An apt critique of Gregory's paranoia and its apparent acceptance by many college students.

181. 31 Oct 81 (Boston Globe) "'Praxis Axis,' 'Action Faction,' and the Weatherman Brink's job," by Carl Oglesby, formerly of SDS and AIB.

182. 14 Jan 82 (AP in MG) "FDR 'secretly recorded White House conversations'" Mark Weiss helped enhance these recordings; the article mentions his work on the Watergate tapes, but not on the JFK case.

183. 21 Jan 82 (UP in SFC) Joining the National Security Council staff under William Clark is his former State Department assistant, Jeremiah O'Leary.

O'Leary witnessed the shooting of Oswald, and covered the HSC hearings for the Washington Star. (On the first day, he and I were on PBS together. Despite his formidable reputation as a friend of the Bureau [see AIB/PLH FBI documents #54, 210, 368, and especially 850], he was cordial and easy to talk with.)

184. Feb 82 (Indian River Life) [18 pp.] and March 82 (Gold Coast of Florida) [19 pp.] Gaeton Fonzi on Ken Burnstine, a mysterious real-estate developer, pilot, and drug smuggler, who died in 1976 - mysteriously, some say.

185. May 82 (Gold Coast) [23 pp.] "Ken Burnstine: the final chapter," by Fonzi. Some familiar names start popping up: Mitch WerBell (against whom Burnstine was expected to testify), Frank Sturgis, Jerry Buchanan, and Robert Bayard. I wouldn't dare try to summarize a story like this, but it's fascinating.

186. Feb 82 [12 pp.] and Mar 82 [9 pp.] (Gallery) "Over the barrel: How big oil is killing free enterprise," by Dick Russell. A two-page chronology for 1859-1981 includes a number of familiar names: Allen Dulles, McCloy, McCone, and even Marina Oswald (whose security after the assassination was allegedly provided by "a number of oil-connected individuals.")

187. 19 Feb 82 (Hollywood Press) "L.A. Sheriffs deny reporter [Greg Roberts] interview with jailed RFK death probe investigator [Ted Charach]" Charach was convicted after using forged airline tickets; he claims a frameup.

188. 27 Feb (AP in SFC) "'Best' pot study not enough" This NAS panel recognized that further research was needed.

189. 28 Feb (WP) Rep. Floyd Fithian, a former HSC member and a "victim of Republican redistricting," announces he will run for the Senate in Indiana.

190, 191, 192. 4 Mar 82 (LAHE), 5 Mar (LAT), 5 Mar (UP in SFC) On the arrest of CIA critic and Cal State Professor Fred Landis on car theft charges, arising from a dispute with a car rental agency. (Landis and Don Freed are being sued for libel by David Phillips because of their book on Letelier.)

193. 9 Mar (Lardner, WP) "CIA critic has unhappy landing" A good summary. Landis had been to Cuba; some of his documents were seized by Customs as possibly seditious.

194. 24 Mar (NYT) C. Oglesby letter, "America is not depression-proof"

195. 25 Apr (Santa Ana Register) Letter from buff Jan V. Martin, against the CIA's Intelligence Identities Protection Act.

196. 26 Apr (Safire, NYT) "[Jerry] O'Leary's sacred cow" Safire is dubious about Clark's policies, but impressed that O'Leary has helped him avoid direct exposure to the public.

197. May 82 (Mother Jones) "It's a mad, mad, mad war," by Martin A. Lee (formerly of the AIB) and Bruce Shlain. [4 pp.] The history of Army-CIA interest in BZ, an incapacitating agent. (The Iran hostage rescue may have relied on it.)

198. May (?) (Appeal to Reason [SF]) "What's not being done about 'quakes...." By Alfred Webre, another ex-AIB'er, now a member of Governor Brown's Emergency Task Force on Earthquake Preparedness. "By inducing earthquakes that are about to occur, you can induce a new social order based on military rule."

199. 27 Aug (Network News dispatch from Vienna, in S.A. Light) Interview by Webre of a Soviet representative at a U.N. conference on outer space.

200. 22 Sep (Chicago Tribune) Webre from Vienna again, on negotiations on the limitation of non-nuclear weapons.

201. Dec 82 (Starlog) Webre interview of Arthur C. Clarke. [3 pp.]

202. 6 May (AP) Fithian wins Indiana primary for Senate race.

203. 9 May (Oakland Tribune) Review, by Peter Dale Scott, of the Branch-Propper book on the Letelier murder - "remarkably candid" in most areas, but not on the question of prior CIA knowledge. [2 pp.]

204. 14 May (WP) On the Pennsylvania Senate race. [2 pp.] The Democratic nominee is expected to be Cyril Wecht. "Wecht's problem is that outside of Pittsburgh, he is largely unknown, and inside of Pittsburgh, largely unliked."

205. 18-20 May (SFC) Wecht wins primary. (3 short items)

206. 26 May (SFC) "A rat in the CBS punch bowl" [2 pp.] On the fuss over the CBS program on Gen. Westmoreland. Producer George Crile was previously known for his "inflammatory and deceitful" program on gay politics in S.F., and (to us)

for his two important 1976 WP articles on the CIA, the Mafia, and Castro (which suggested that Trafficante cooperated with Castro). [See 4 HSC 308.]

207. 3 Jun (SFC) "Brown names [Stuart] Pollak to S.F. Superior Court" Pollak's Warren Commission work is mentioned. (That background is often omitted in articles on WC staffers who have gone on to less controversial pursuits.)

208. 5 Jun (Nation) "CIA: Carcinogen," by Martin A. ("Marty") Lee. In 1952, the CIA considered a study on the possible covert use of beryllium to produce tumors.

209. 8 Jun (NYT) "Koch is assailed as Baden case opens" Michael Baden, head of the HSC forensic pathology panel, is represented by HSC lawyer Robert Tanenbaum in his suit for reinstatement as Chief Medical Examiner, plus a few megabucks. (It's not mentioned here, but I was told that the actual reason for Baden's firing in 1979 was his indiscreet remarks about the manner of Nelson Rockefeller's demise.)

210. 27 Jun (SFX&C) Review of "The Rise and Fall of Diamonds," by Edward Epstein, which is called "a parody of investigative reporting" and "fluff."

211. 3 Jul (LAT) "Synanon suit- ABC payoff: Unanswered questions" [4 pp.] A $42 million slander suit was suddenly settled out of court, leaving a lot of press people unhappy. "In January 1979, San Francisco station KGO-TV began a series of news broadcasts about Synanon's reported purchase of a large quantity of arms and ammunition.... The station used a graphic background which had been traced from a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald ... holding a rifle and joined with the Synanon emblem." A couple of other local buffs and I participated in the case; our expertise was used to support Synanon's claim that the famous photo of Oswald with his weapons is indeed famous. (I even got to testify at the trial.) The issue really was whether the photo is readily recognizable as being of Oswald if it is not identified as such. The whole case was a fascinating experience for me. Of course, I'm concerned about the chilling effect of large libel suits, but on the other hand I'm not enthusiastic about "Eyewitless News" either. I am now more positive about Synanon than I used to be, but no more positive about the legal system and its denizens.

212. 4 July (SFX&C) "Political storm over the [National] Academy [of Sciences]" [2 pp.] Funds for acid rain research have been cut off by the Reagan administration; a 1981 report on the subject was allegedly flawed. Clearly, the NAS's investigations do not occur in a political vacuum (but given the unanimity of the acoustics panel, I don't think that made any real difference).

213. 6 Jul (WP) "An angry man's education on getting along without going along" [2 pp.] A sympathetic profile of Rep. Robert Edgar (an HSC member).

214. 8 Jul (NYT) "Authorities meet on inquiry into sex and drug charges" The House Ethics Committee, headed by Louis Stokes, has hired Andy Purdy to supervise this investigation. As an HSC staff lawyer, Purdy worked on the medical and Mafia evidence. Sex and drugs in Washington? Say it ain't so, Andy!

215. 12 Jul (New Republic) "An assassin's portrait," by Priscilla Johnson McMillan [3 pp.] "He [Hinckley] has added his bit to the sad and ugly lore out of which he pieced himself together...." Hinckley's possessions included Jesse Curry's book, and McMillan's own "Marina and Lee," which he read at Texas Tech. The "similarities" between Hinckley and Oswald are "uncanny." Hinckley bought a rifle just like Oswald's and had photos taken of him with his weapons. His note about winning Jodie Foster's love through "this historic deed" parallels an aria in an opera Oswald listened to (as noted in "Marina and Lee") where the hero/murderer sings of "a heroic deed ... for your sake." There's more: "High Noon" was to Oswald as "Taxi Driver" was to Hinckley.

McMillan's psychological approach seems more productive here than in Oswald's case, since Hinckley seems to be a genuine psycho. But someone more conspiratorially inclined might wonder if the official lone-nut mythology could lead a lone nut to think that being an assassin is a natural thing for him to do, or even if it might suggest a legend for a non-nutty assassin.

216. 16 Aug (WSJ) "How Dallas reporter's hot story won a pink slip instead of a prize" Earl Golz wrote that the Abilene National Bank was in trouble; the

bank chairman denounced the story and threatened a suit; Golz was fired and the editor involved resigned; within two weeks the bank went under. Golz is not expected to return to the Morning News. (See "Coverups!" for more information. I've seen no allegations that his firing had to do with his work on the JFK case.)

217. 19 Aug (UPI) "Solid gold replica of Titanic to [be hidden to] lure treasure hunters," as a promotional device for a new book on the search for the ship. Clues for finding the replica are being developed by George O'Toole, former CIA officer (and, unmentioned here, author of "The Assassinations Tapes").

218. 3 Sep (PW) Brief, negative review of Melvin Belli's latest book, "The Belli Files." (I checked the index; no references to Ruby.)

219. 7 Oct (NYT) "The case of the missing spy benefits" Agents of Task Force 157, claiming that they were federal employees and are entitled to civil service benefits, are being represented by Bernard Fensterwald III - whose father also has a penchant for interesting causes with even more interesting clients.

220. 23 Oct (UPI-Reuter) One of John DeLorean's defense lawyers is L.A. barrister Joseph A. Ball, "respected ... for decades for his demeanor and skills as a behind-the-scenes negotiator," and better known to us as David Belin's senior partner on the Warren Commission staff.

221. 27 Oct (AP) Obituary for Sybil Leek, famous witch and co-author of what is, I am told, the worst book ever on the JFK case. (Certainly the worst to have an introduction by Jack Anderson.)

222,223. 28 Oct (LAT), 29 Oct (NYT) More obituaries on the only admitted witch or wizard among assassination buffs.

224. 27 Oct (WP) "Ahead [of Fithian in Senate race], Lugar leaves little to chance" Fithian is called "an energetic, voluble campaigner."

225. Nov 82 (Inquiry) A brief note on the departure of Jonathan Marshall, associate editor and para-politics para-buff extraordinaire. Jonathan is now an editorial writer for the San Jose Mercury.

226. 4 Nov (SFC) Election returns. In the Senate races, Fithian lost (with 46% of the vote) and Wecht lost (with 40%). Nebraska Governor Thone, a former HSC member, lost his job (with 49% of the votes).

227. 26 Nov (SFC, from Science) "The great debate over the MX missile proposal" [3 pp.] "Richard Garwin, an iconoclastic U.S. weapons expert [and NAS acoustics panel member] is once again on the warpath, assailing a major weapons system," the MX "dense pack."

228. 10 Dec (AP & UP in SFC) "Watergate prosecutor Jaworski dies" (For Jaworski's role in the JFK investigation, see "The Assassinations.")

Credits:
Thanks to R. Blakey (#104), T. Davis (135), M. DiGiovanni (145, 149, 151), M. Ewing (129, 166, 189, 193, 204, 213, 224), B. Fensterwald (157), G. Fonzi (158-9, 184-5), J. Goldberg (177, 209, 223), M. Goddard (139, 144, 196, 214, 219), G. Hollingsworth (101, 120, 125, 136, 142, 156, 161, 165, 169, 170, 187, 218, 222), G. Mack (152, 216), J. Martin (190-1, 195), J. Meek (164), P. Melanson (173), J. Mierzejewski (168, 178), C. Oglesby (181, 194), G. Owens (172), R. Ranftel (100, 154, 179, 197, 208), T. Rubinstein (211), D. Russell (186), P. Scott (203), L. Sproesser (140-1), T. Vaughan (114-5, 117-8, 132, 153), D. Vittorioso (102), A. Webre (198-201), and Anonymous.

Season's Greetings: From "Haddocks' Eyes," by Lewis Carroll (In Ch. 8 of "Through the Looking Glass" (1872))

I'll tell thee everything I can;
There's little to relate.
I saw an aged aged man,
A-sitting on a gate.
"Who are you, aged man?" I said
"And how is it you live?"
And his answer trickled through my head
Like water through a sieve.

* * *

"I sometimes dig for buttered rolls,
Or set limed twigs for crabs;
I sometimes search the grassy knolls
For wheels of Hansom-cabs.
And that's the way" (he gave a wink)
"By which I get my wealth -
And very gladly will I drink
Your Honour's noble health."

* * *

Cheers!
PLH